

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

selecting from an inverted index at least[[,]]

~~a first item associated with~~ a first item entry ~~having~~ comprising a first listing of articles that are associated with ~~the~~ a first item[[,]] and

~~a second item different from the first item, the second item associated with a~~
second item entry ~~having~~ comprising a second listing of articles that are associated with ~~the~~ a
second item, wherein the second item differs from the first item;

determining whether to compress the second item entry into the first item entry; and

compressing the second item entry into the first item entry based ~~at least in part~~ on the determination.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether to compress the second item entry into the first item entry comprises:

determining a cost-benefit ratio for compressing the second item entry into the first item entry; and

comparing the cost-benefit ratio with ~~an acceptable~~ a value to determine if the cost-benefit ratio is acceptable.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein:

the first item entry further comprises an item value for each article in the first listing; and

the second item entry further comprises an item value for each article in the second listing that the item appears in.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the item ~~value~~ values is ~~comprise a representation~~ representations of the ~~strength~~ strengths of the ~~item~~ items in the ~~article~~ articles.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the item ~~value~~ values is ~~comprise a representation~~ representations of whether the ~~item~~ items ~~appears~~ appear in the ~~article~~ articles.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 2, wherein a cost ~~for~~ in the cost-benefit ratio comprises a representation of:

~~the a~~ a loss in precision ~~that can be~~ caused by compressing the first item entry and ~~the~~ second item ~~entries~~ entry; or

~~the~~ additional processing time ~~that can be~~ required when utilizing a compressed entry.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[6]]~~ 2, wherein determining ~~a cost for~~ the cost-benefit ratio comprises determining how much the first item entry and the second item entry ~~have to change when~~ with the second item entry ~~[[is]]~~ compressed into the first item entry.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein a benefit ~~for~~ in the cost-benefit ratio ~~[[is]]~~ comprises a representation of ~~the an~~ an amount of memory saved ~~if~~ by compression of the first item entry and ~~the~~ second item ~~entries~~ entry ~~were compressed~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the items comprise one or more of words, concepts, or images.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the ~~acceptable~~ value is predetermined.

11. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

selecting from an inverted index at least[[,]]

~~a first item associated with~~ a first item entry ~~having~~ comprising a first listing of articles ~~that are~~ associated with ~~the~~ a first item comprising and an item value for each article in the first listing, and

~~a second item different from the first item, the second item associated with a~~ second item entry ~~having~~ comprising a second listing of articles ~~that are~~ associated with ~~the~~ a second item comprising and an item value for each article in the second listing, wherein the second item differs from the first item;

~~determining whether to compress the second item entry into the first item entry by~~

determining a cost-benefit ratio for compressing the second item entry into the first item entry; ~~and~~

comparing the cost-benefit ratio with ~~an acceptable~~ a value to determine if the cost-benefit ratio is acceptable; and

if the cost-benefit ratio is acceptable, compressing the second item entry into the first item entry ~~based at least in part on the determination.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein determining ~~a cost for~~ the cost-benefit ratio comprises determining how much the first item entry and the second item entry ~~have to change when~~ with the second item entry is compressed into the first item entry.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein a benefit ~~for~~ in the cost-benefit ratio ~~is~~ comprises a representation of an amount of memory saved ~~if~~ by compression of the first item entry and the second item ~~entries~~ entry ~~were compressed.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the ~~acceptable~~ value is predetermined.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the items comprise one or more of words, concepts, or images.

16. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
selecting from an inverted index a plurality of ~~items~~ item entries, each item entry different from the other selected ~~items~~ item entries and each ~~item~~ item entry ~~having~~ comprising a listing of associated articles ~~associated with the item~~;
determining whether to compress the plurality of ~~items~~ item entries; and
compressing the item entries based ~~at least in part~~ on the determination.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the plurality of item entries comprises three or more item entries.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ An article comprising one or more computer-readable ~~medium~~ media containing program code operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations, the operations comprising:

~~program code for~~ selecting from an inverted index at least~~[[,]]~~
~~a first item associated with~~ a first item entry having comprising a first listing of articles that are associated with ~~the~~ a first item, and
~~a second item different from the first item, the second item associated with a~~
second item entry having comprising a second listing of articles that are associated with ~~the~~ a
second item, wherein the second item differs from the first item;

~~program code~~ for determining whether to compress the second item entry into the first item entry; and

~~program code~~ for compressing the second item entry into the first item entry based at least in part on the determination.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ article of claim 18, wherein determining whether to compress the second item entry into the first item entry comprises:

~~program code~~ for determining a cost-benefit ratio for compressing the second item entry into the first item entry; and

~~program code~~ for comparing the cost-benefit ratio with ~~an acceptable~~ a value to determine if the cost-benefit ratio is acceptable.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ article of claim 18, wherein: the first item entry further comprises an item value for each article in the first listing; and the second item entry further comprises an item value for each article in the second listing that the item appears in.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ article of claim 20, wherein the item ~~value~~ values ~~is~~ comprise a ~~representation~~ representations of the ~~strength~~ strengths of the ~~item~~ items in the ~~article~~ articles.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ article of claim 20, herein the item ~~value~~ values ~~is~~ comprise a ~~representation~~ representations of whether the ~~item~~ items ~~appears~~ appear in the ~~article~~ articles.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ article of claim ~~[[22]]~~ 19, wherein a cost ~~for~~ in the cost-benefit ratio comprises a representation of:

~~the~~ a loss in precision ~~that can be~~ caused by compressing the first item entry and ~~the~~ second ~~entries~~ entry; or

~~the~~ additional processing time ~~that can be~~ required when utilizing a compressed entry.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ article of claim ~~[[20]]~~ 19, wherein determining ~~a cost for~~ the cost-benefit ratio comprises ~~program code for~~ determining how much a first item entry and a second item entry ~~have to~~ change ~~when~~ with the second item entry ~~[[is]]~~ compressed into the first item entry.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ article of claim 19, wherein a benefit for the cost-benefit ratio ~~[[is]]~~ comprises a representation of ~~the~~ an amount of memory saved if by compression of the first item entry and ~~the~~ second item ~~entries~~ entry ~~were~~ compressed.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ article of claim 18, wherein the items comprise one or more of words, concepts, or images.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ article of claim 19, wherein the ~~acceptable~~ value is predetermined.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ An article comprising one or more computer-readable medium media containing program code operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations, the operations comprising:

~~program code~~ for selecting from an inverted index a plurality of ~~items~~ item entries, each item entry different from the other selected ~~items~~ item entries and each item entry ~~having~~ comprising a listing of associated articles ~~associated with the item~~;

~~program code~~ for determining whether to compress the plurality of ~~items~~ item entries;
and

~~program code~~ for compressing the item entries based ~~at least in part~~ on the determination.

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ article of claim 28, wherein the plurality of item entries comprises three or more item entries.

30. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the first item comprises a first word;
the articles in the first listing are associated with the first item by virtue of the first word appearing in the articles in the first listing; and
the first word does not appear in the second item.

31. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the first item comprises a first concept;
the second item comprises a second concept;
the articles in the first listing are associated with the first item by virtue of the first concept appearing in the articles in the first listing;
the articles in the second listing are associated with the second item by virtue of the second concept appearing in the articles in the second listing; and
determining whether to compress the second item entry into the first item entry comprises determining whether the first concept is related to the second concept.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein determining whether the first concept is related to the second concept comprises accessing a semantic network that stores relationships between concepts.

33. (New) The article of claim 18, wherein:
the first item comprises a first word;
the articles in the first listing are associated with the first item by virtue of the first word appearing in the articles in the first listing; and
the first word does not appear in the second item.

34. (New) The article of claim 18, wherein:
the first item comprises a first concept;
the second item comprises a second concept;
the articles in the first listing are associated with the first item by virtue of the first concept appearing in the articles in the first listing;
the articles in the second listing are associated with the second item by virtue of the second concept appearing in the articles in the second listing; and
determining whether to compress the second item entry into the first item entry comprises determining whether the first concept is related to the second concept.

35. (New) The article of claim 34, wherein determining whether the first concept is related to the second concept comprises accessing a semantic network that stores relationships between concepts.